

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

PROPOSED DRAFT HEARING PROCEDURE
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT
R5-2009-0523

ISSUED TO
The City of Chico
Chico Water Pollution Control Plant
Butte County

SCHEDULED FOR 11/12 JUNE 2009

PLEASE READ THIS HEARING PROCEDURE CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF YOUR DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

Background

The Executive Officer has issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13323 to The City of Chico ("Discharger") alleging that it has violated CWC section 13385 by discharging up to 4.813 million gallons of partially treated sewage to the Sacramento River on incidents in May and June of 2008. The Complaint proposes that an administrative civil liability in the amount of one hundred and fifty-three thousand (\$153,000) be imposed. A hearing is currently scheduled to be held before the Central Valley Water Board during its 11/12 June 2009 meeting.

Purpose of Hearing

The purpose of the hearing is to consider relevant evidence and testimony regarding the ACL Complaint. At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will consider whether to issue an administrative civil liability order assessing the proposed liability, or a higher or lower amount, or reject the proposed liability. The public hearing on 11/12 June 2009 will commence at 8:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as practical, or as announced in the Central Valley Water Board meeting agenda. The meeting will be held at: 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200 in Rancho Cordova, California. An agenda for the meeting will be issued at least ten days before the meeting and posted on the Central Valley Water Board's web page at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings.

Hearing Procedures

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with this Hearing Procedure. This proposed draft version of the Hearing Procedure has been prepared by the Prosecution Team, and is subject to revision and approval by the Central Valley Water Board's

Advisory Team. A copy of the general procedures governing adjudicatory hearings before the Central Valley Water Board may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq., and is available at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> or upon request. In accordance with Section 648, subdivision (d), any procedure not provided by this Hearing Procedure is deemed waived. Except as provided in Section 648 and herein, subdivision (b), Chapter 5 of the Administrative Procedures Act (commencing with Gov't Code § 11500) does not apply to this hearing.

THE PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES HEREIN MAY BE AMENDED BY THE ADVISORY TEAM IN ITS DISCRETION. **ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE HEARING PROCEDURE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD'S ADVISORY TEAM NO LATER THAN 30 MARCH 2009, OR THEY WILL BE WAIVED.** FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

Hearing Participants

Participants in this proceeding are designated as either "parties" or "interested persons." Designated parties to the hearing may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses and are subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may present non-evidentiary policy statements, but may not cross-examine witnesses and are not subject to cross-examination. Interested persons generally may not present evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data). Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Central Valley Water Board, staff or others, at the discretion of the Central Valley Water Board.

The following participants are hereby designated as parties in this proceeding:

- (1) Central Valley Water Board Prosecution Team
- (2) The City of Chico, referred to as the Discharger

Requesting Designated Party Status

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a designated party must request party status by submitting a request in writing (with copies to the existing designated parties) so that it is received no later than 5 p.m. on **6 April 2009** to Lori Okun (contact information listed below). The request shall include an explanation of the basis for status as a designated party (i.e., how the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the potential actions by the Central Valley Water Board affect the person), the information required of designated parties as provided below, and a statement explaining why the party or parties designated above do not adequately represent the person's interest. Any opposition to the request must be received by the Advisory Team, the person requesting party status, and all other parties by 5 p.m. on **16 April 2009**. The parties will be notified by 5 p.m. on 20 April 2009 whether the request has been granted or denied.

Primary Contacts

Advisory Team:

Ken Landau, Assistant Executive Officer
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Phone: (916) 464-4726; fax: (916) 464-4758
klandau@waterboards.ca.gov

Lori Okun, Senior Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 341-5165; fax: (916) 341-5199
lokun@waterboards.ca.gov

Prosecution Team:

Jim Pedri, Assistant Executive Officer
Bryan Smith, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
Greg Cash, Engineering Geologist
415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100
Redding, CA 96002
Phone: (530) 224-3208; fax: (530) 224-4857
gdcash@waterboards.ca.gov

Patrick Pulupa, Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 341-5189; fax: (916) 341-5199
ppulupa@waterboards.ca.gov

Discharger:

The City of Chico
Marc Sulik, Wastewater Treatment Manager
4827 Chico River Road
Chico, Ca 95928
Phone: (530) 894-4300; fax: (530) 895-4731

Separation of Functions

To help ensure the fairness and impartiality of this proceeding, the functions of those who will act in a prosecutorial role by presenting evidence for consideration by the Central Valley Water Board (Prosecution Team) have been separated from those who

will provide advice to the Central Valley Water Board (Advisory Team). Members of the Advisory Team are: Ken Landau, Assistant Executive Officer; and Lori Okun, Senior Staff Counsel. Members of the Prosecution Team are: Jim Pedri, Assistant Executive Officer; Bryan Smith, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer; Greg Cash, Engineering Geologist; and Patrick Pulupa, Staff Counsel. Any members of the Advisory Team who normally supervise any members of the Prosecution Team are not acting as their supervisors in this proceeding, and vice versa. Members of the Prosecution Team may have acted as advisors to the Central Valley Water Board in other, unrelated matters, but they are not advising the Central Valley Water Board in this proceeding. Members of the Prosecution Team have not had any ex parte communications with the members of the Central Valley Water Board or the Advisory Team regarding this proceeding.

Ex Parte Communications

The designated parties and interested persons are forbidden from engaging in ex parte communications regarding this matter with members of the Advisory Team or members of the Central Valley Water Board. An ex parte contact is any written or verbal communication pertaining to the investigation, preparation or prosecution of the ACL Complaint between a member of a designated party or interested person on the one hand, and a Central Valley Water Board member or an Advisory Team member on the other hand, unless the communication is copied to all other designated parties (if written) or made in a manner open to all other designated parties (if verbal). Communications regarding non-controversial procedural matters are not ex parte contacts and are not restricted. Communications among one or more designated parties and interested persons themselves are not ex parte contacts.

Hearing Time Limits

To ensure that all participants have an opportunity to participate in the hearing, the following time limits shall apply: each designated party shall have a combined 25 minutes to present evidence (including evidence presented by witnesses called by the designated party), cross-examine witnesses (if warranted), and provide a closing statement; and each interested person shall have 3 minutes to present a non-evidentiary policy statement. Participants with similar interests or comments are requested to make joint presentations, and participants are requested to avoid redundant comments. Participants who would like additional time must submit their request to the Advisory Team so that it is received no later than ten days after all of the evidence has been received. Additional time may be provided at the discretion of the Advisory Team (prior to the hearing) or the Central Valley Water Board Chair (at the hearing) upon a showing that additional time is necessary.

Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements

The following information must be submitted in advance of the hearing:

1. All evidence (other than witness testimony to be presented orally at the hearing) that the Designated Party would like the Central Valley Water Board to consider. Evidence and exhibits already in the public files of the Central Valley Board may be submitted by reference as long as the exhibits and their location are clearly identified in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.3.
2. All legal and technical arguments or analysis.
3. The name of each witness, if any, whom the designated party intends to call at the hearing, the subject of each witness' proposed testimony, and the estimated time required by each witness to present direct testimony.
4. The qualifications of each expert witness, if any.

The evidence upon which the Complaint is based will have been entered into the administrative file at the time the Complaint is issued. However, the Prosecution Team may submit additional evidence into the administrative file until 5 p.m. on **20 April 2009**. The Board's Advisory Team, all other Designated Parties, and all Interested Parties will be notified if additional evidence is added to the file, and will be provided with copies of the additional evidence. Should the Prosecution Team require witnesses to provide direct testimony at the Hearing, the Prosecution Team will provide the Board's Advisory Team, all other Designated Parties, and all Interested Parties with the information contained in items 3 and 4, above, by 5 p.m. on **20 April 2009**.

The remaining designated parties shall submit 11 hard copies and one electronic copy of the information described in items 1 through 4 above to Ken Landau so that they are received no later than 5 p.m. on **4 May 2009**. In addition to the foregoing, each designated party shall send (1) one copy of the above information to each of the other designated parties by 5 p.m. on the deadline specified above. The Designated Parties should submit all rebuttal evidence to Ken Landau no later than 5 p.m. on **1 June 2009**, in order to allow all parties to consider all evidence prior to the hearing. "Rebuttal evidence" is limited to evidence that is offered to disprove or contradict evidence presented by an opposing party.

If the total amount of information submitted by any party is less than 15 pages, that party may submit the information by email, rather than in writing.

Interested persons who would like to submit written non-evidentiary policy statements are encouraged to submit them to the Advisory Team as early as possible. Interested persons do not need to submit written comments in order to speak at the hearing.

In accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4, the Central Valley Water Board endeavors to avoid surprise testimony or evidence. Absent a showing of good cause and lack of prejudice to the parties, the Central Valley Water

Board may exclude evidence and testimony that is not submitted in accordance with this Hearing Procedure. Excluded evidence and testimony will not be considered by the Central Valley Water Board and will not be included in the administrative record for this proceeding. Power Point and other visual presentations may be used at the hearing, but their content may not exceed the scope of other submitted written material.

Additionally, any witness who has submitted written testimony for the hearing shall appear at the hearing and affirm that the written testimony is true and correct, and shall be available for cross-examination.

Evidentiary Documents and File

The Complaint and related evidentiary documents are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Central Valley Water Board office at 415 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 100, Redding, CA 96002. This file shall be considered part of the official administrative record for this hearing. Other submittals received for this proceeding will be added to this file and will become a part of the administrative record absent a contrary ruling by the Central Valley Water Board's Chair. Many of these documents are also posted on-line at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>. Although the web page is updated regularly, to assure access to the latest information, you may contact Greg Cash at (530) 224-3208.

Questions

Questions concerning this proceeding may be addressed to Lori Okun at (916) 341-5165.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

(Note: the Central Valley Water Board is required to provide a hearing within 90 days of issuance of the Complaint (CWC § 13323). The Advisory Team will generally adhere to this schedule unless the discharger submits a waiver and it is accepted.)

17 March 2009	Prosecution Team issues ACL Complaint to Discharger and Advisory Team, sends proposed Hearing Procedure to Discharger and Advisory Team, and publishes Public Notice
30 March 2009	Objections due on proposed Hearing Procedure
6 April 2009	Deadline for submission of request for designated party status.
15 April 2009	Deadline for opposition to request for designated party status.
15 April 2009	Discharger's deadline for submitting signed form to waive right to hearing within 90 days.

20 April 2009	Prosecution Team's deadline for submission of all information required under "Evidence and Policy Statements," above.
20 April 2009	Advisory Team issues decision on requests for designated party status, if any.
4 May 2009	Remaining Designated Parties' (including the Discharger) Deadline for submission of all information required under "Evidence and Policy Statements," above.
1 June 2009	All Designated Parties' deadline for submission of rebuttal evidence (if any) and evidentiary objections.
11/12 June 2009	Hearing

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